

-5-

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 30, 2005 in which claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13-16, 18, 19 and 21 were rejected, and claims 3, 5, 8, 12, 17 and 20 were objected to. With this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13-16, 18, 19 and 21 are canceled. Claims 3, 5, 8, 12, 17 and 20 are amended and presented for reconsideration and allowance.


In the Office Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. With this Amendment, claim 6 is canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn. Also in the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13-16, 18, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). With this Amendment, all of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13-16, 18, 19 and 21 are canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn as well.

Also in the Office Action, claims 3, 5, 8, 12, 17 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated. With this Amendment, each of claims 3, 5, 8, 12, 17 and 20 are amended to include the limitations of their respective base claims and intervening claims. Therefore, it is believed that claims 3, 5, 8, 12, 17 and 20 are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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